14.05 hrs.

Title: Need to encourage Bt. Cotton growers, particularly in Gujarat.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Sir, Bt. Cotton is genetically modified to resist the pest and has the potential to dramatically improve crops while cutting down the use of pesticides that has now become a grave economic and environmental threat. Chinese farmers have already taken the lead in the commercial use of Bt. Cotton and their efforts prove the big role that GM crops can play both in rich and poor countries in the days to come. The GM cotton uses almost 90 per cent less pesticide, in polluting rivers, leaving residues in the soil and killing harmless insects.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government that cotton growers, particularly in Gujarat and other parts of the country, be allowed to grow this Bt. Cotton.